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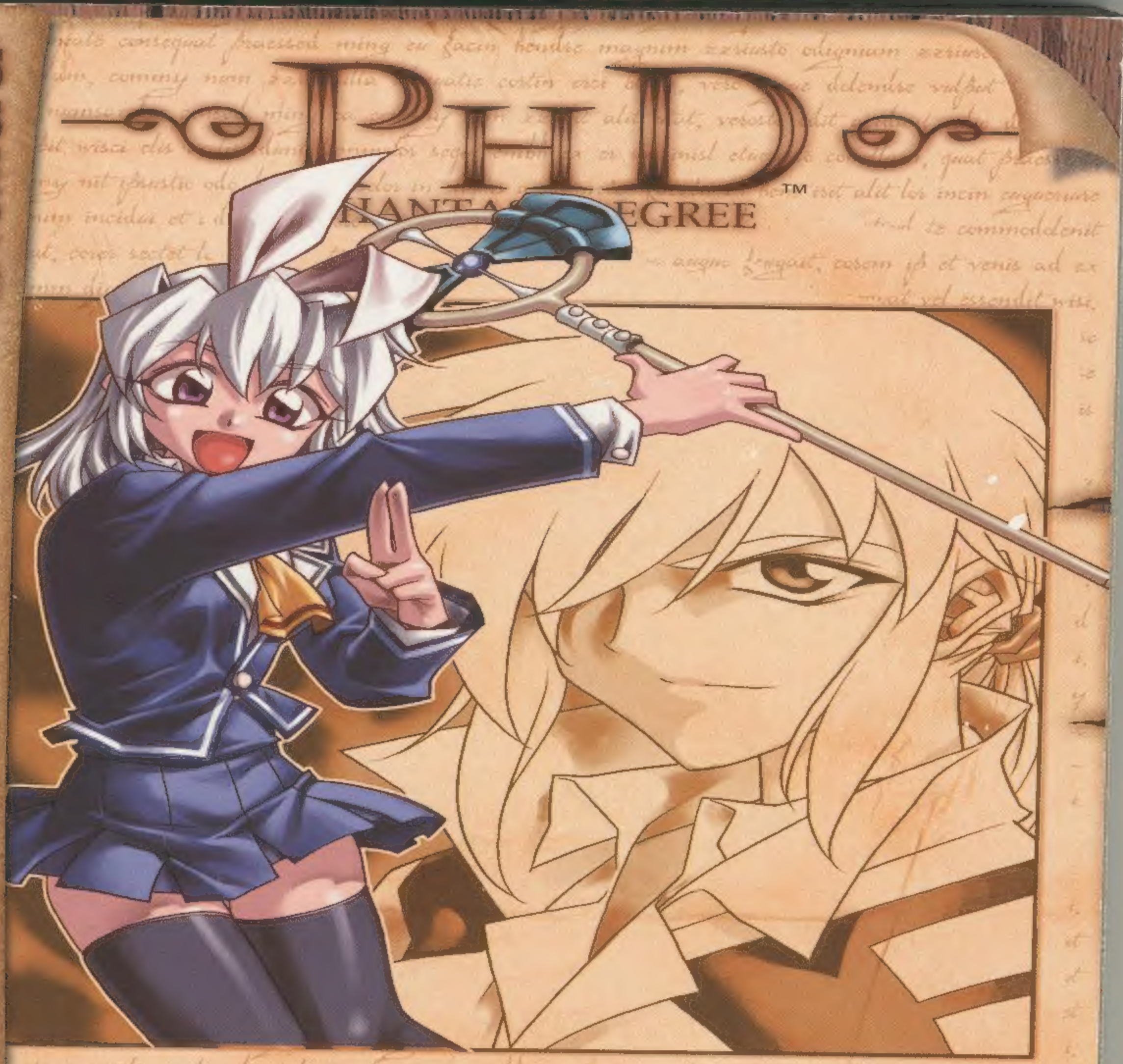

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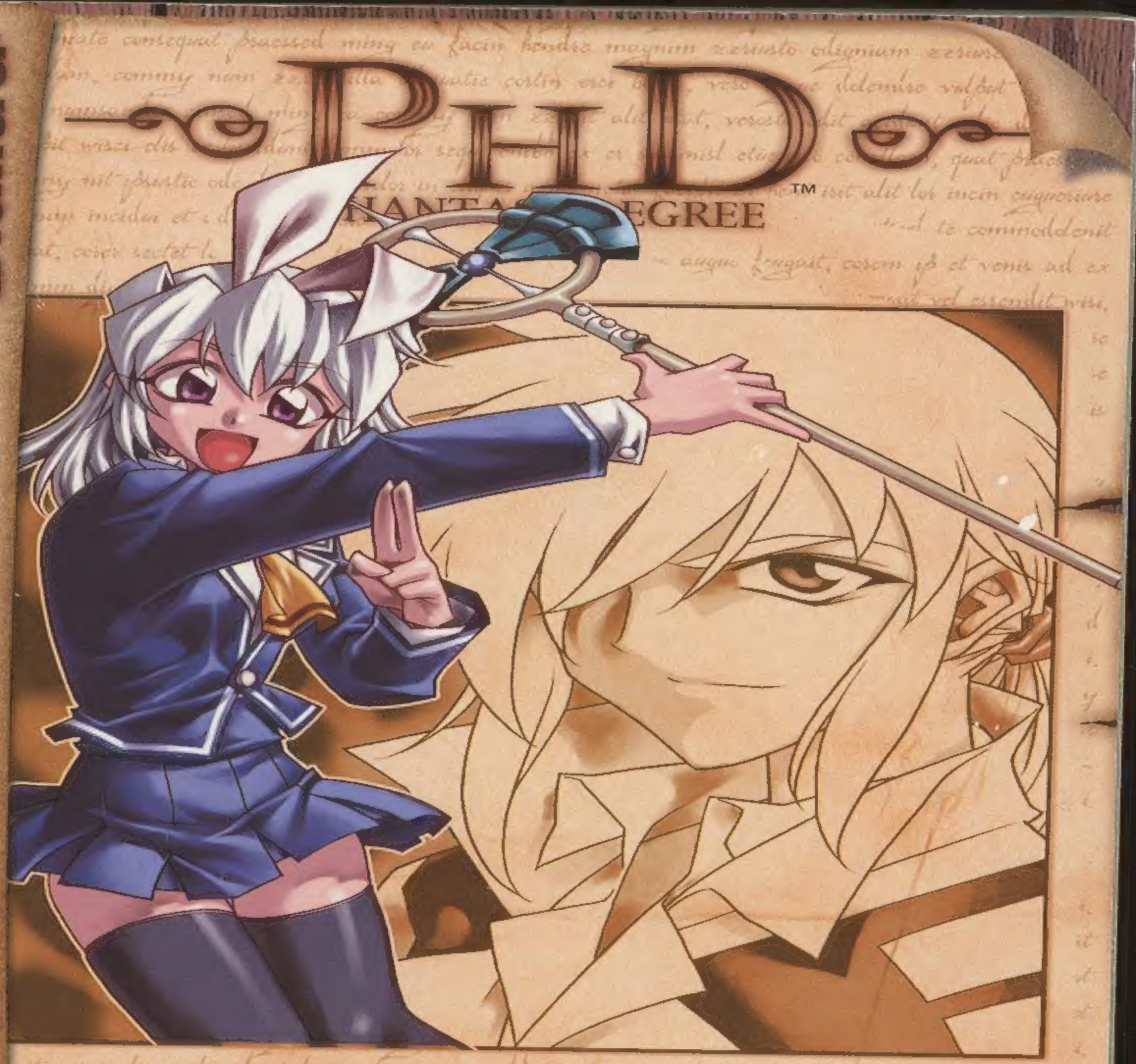

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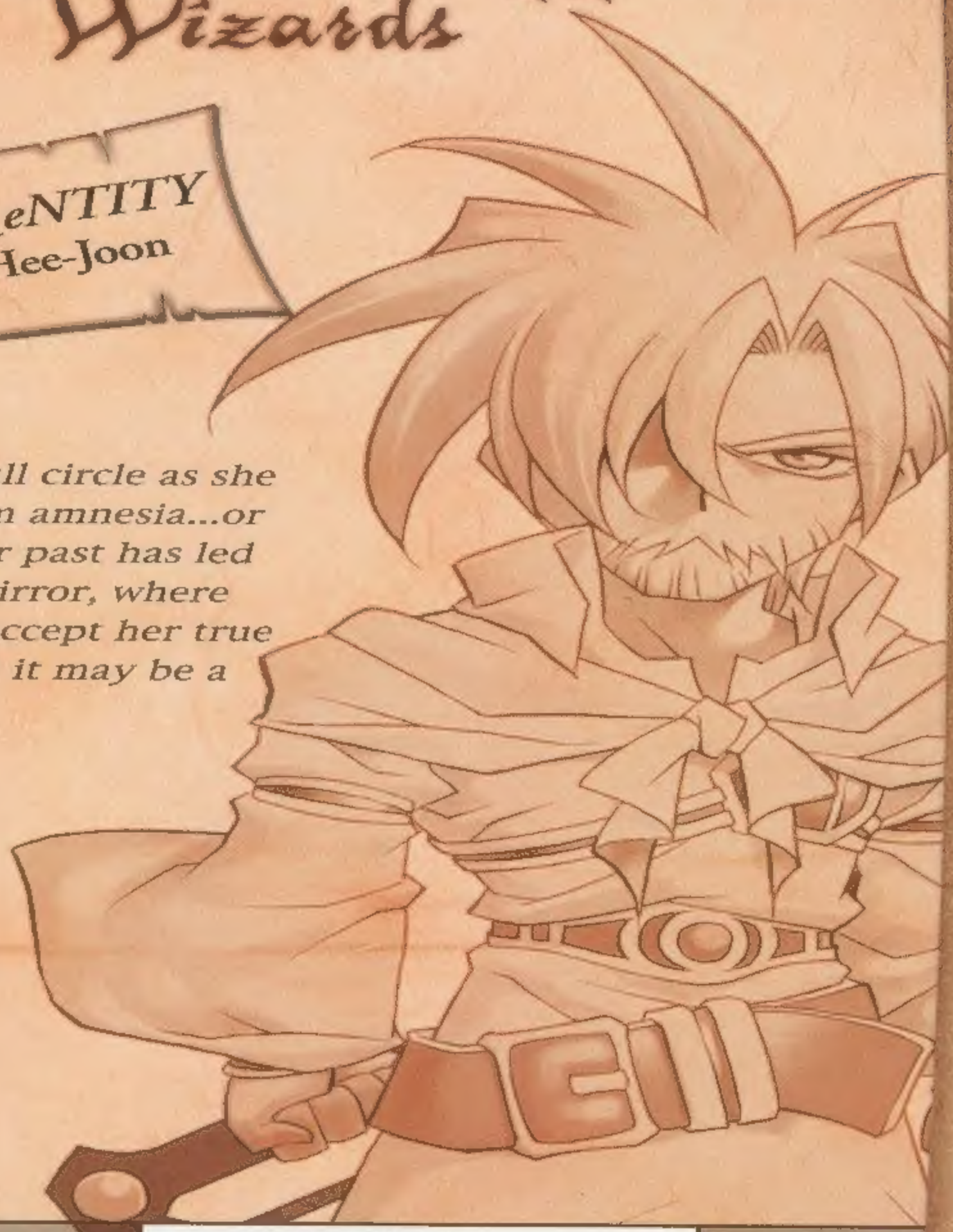

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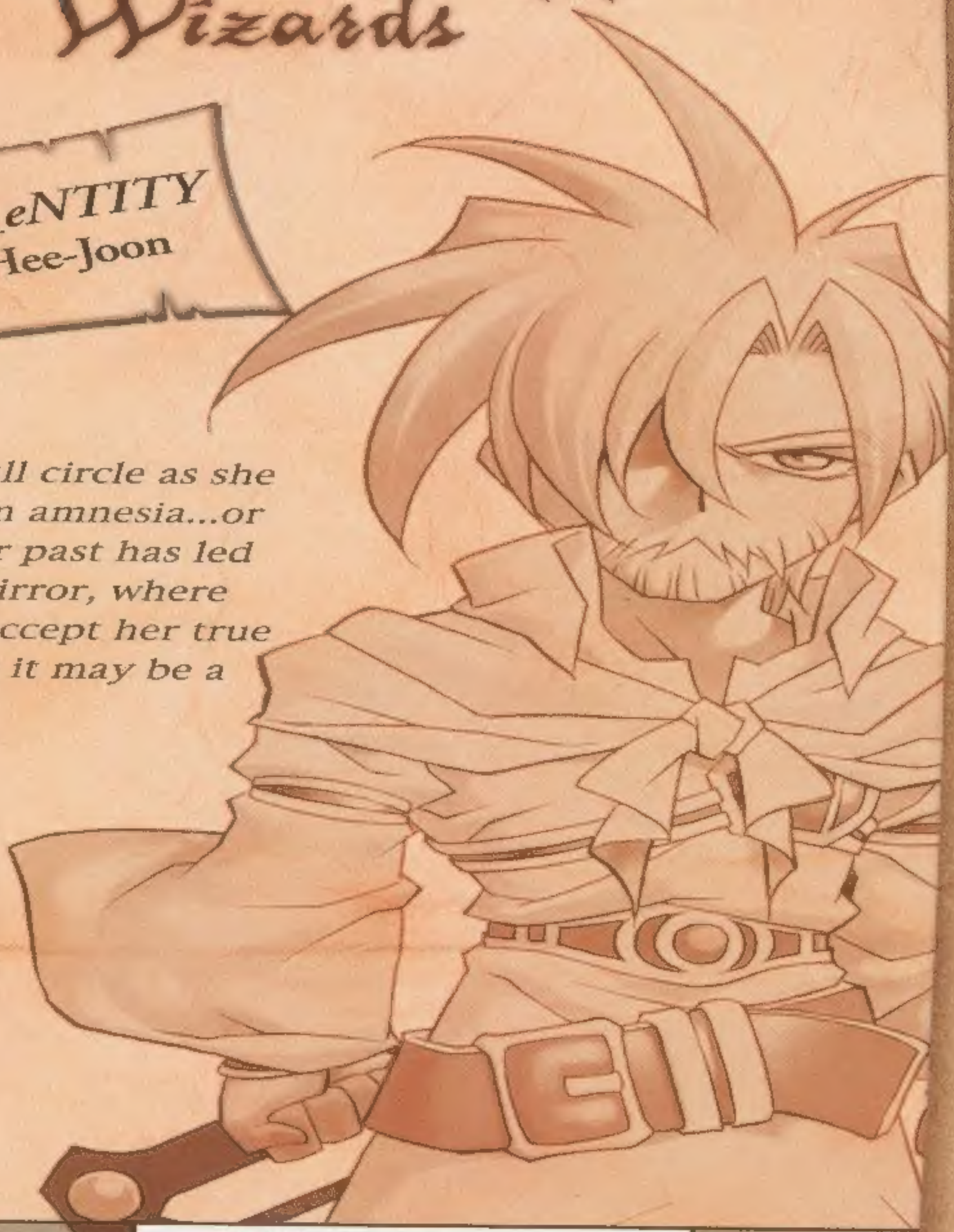

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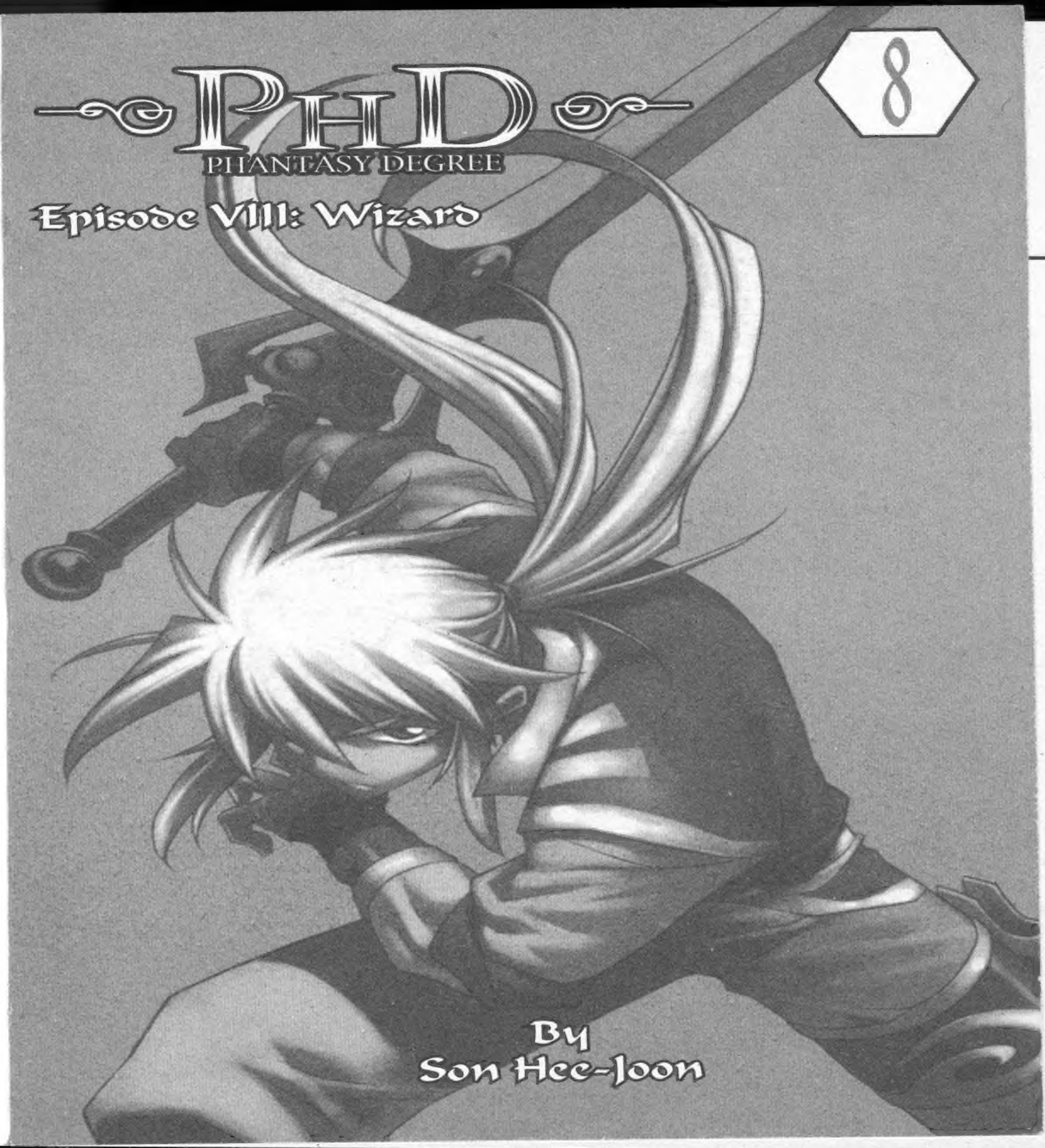
Episode VIII: Wizard



By
Son Hee-Joon

Previously in...

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A spunky, ring-wearing girl named Sang searches for the Demon School Hades...and a legendary ring contained within its walls. When she encounters a group of misfit monsters that are playing hooky from school, her hunt is over. They reluctantly take her to Hades, where Sang meets Notra, a female monster who's wearing a very special ring! But before Sang can snatch Notra's ring, a group of humans from the Madosa Guild attack the school! A deadly battle ensues, and Sang fights alongside her new beastly buddies...

The body count rises as the Madosa Guild continues its ruthless attack on the Demon School Hades. During the conflict, the power of Sang's rings is revealed: Not only does her jewelry make her stronger, but they can change the gender of their wearer. In Sang's case, when she takes off her rings, she becomes a muscular and powerful man! Holy gender-bender defender!

Despite a valiant effort by the denizens of the Demon School, the Madosa Guild emerges victorious. In the aftermath of all the fighting, the Demon School students bury their dead and search for a faraway land rumored to be inhabited by creatures like them. Sang, meanwhile, begins another adventure.

In a dark forest, Sang meets a girl swordmaster named Chun-Lang. A ring on Chun-Lang's finger piques Sang's curiosity. Lost, the two try to make their way out of the woods and come across Alcan, a villainous warlock from the Madosa Guild, who has unleashed a behemoth named Gigantes. With the aid of forest elves Shumiro and Hexion, Sang foils Alcan's plan...but not without a price: Sang awakens after an epic battle to shockingly discover that she has a bad case of amnesia!

Now nicknamed "Limbo," Sang recuperates in Hexion's village. As Sang struggles to remember her identity, she joins Hexion in search of a young girl named Iris who has gone missing in the troll-infested Forest of the Ants! Along the way, they encounter trolls, students from the Magic Academy Athena...and old friends Dev and Notra! Will they be able to help Sang recover her lost memories?

Sang as a woman

Sang as a man

Chun-Lang & Sang

MANDRAKE... LEGS OF A CENTIPEDE... MUCUS OF A STONE TROLL... YES, YEEES!!
BOIL, BOIL, TOIL AND, HELL, ALL THAT JAZZ. YES, SOON... SOON YOU SHALL BE COMPLETE, MY LOVE!

Alcan

Gigantes

Wizard

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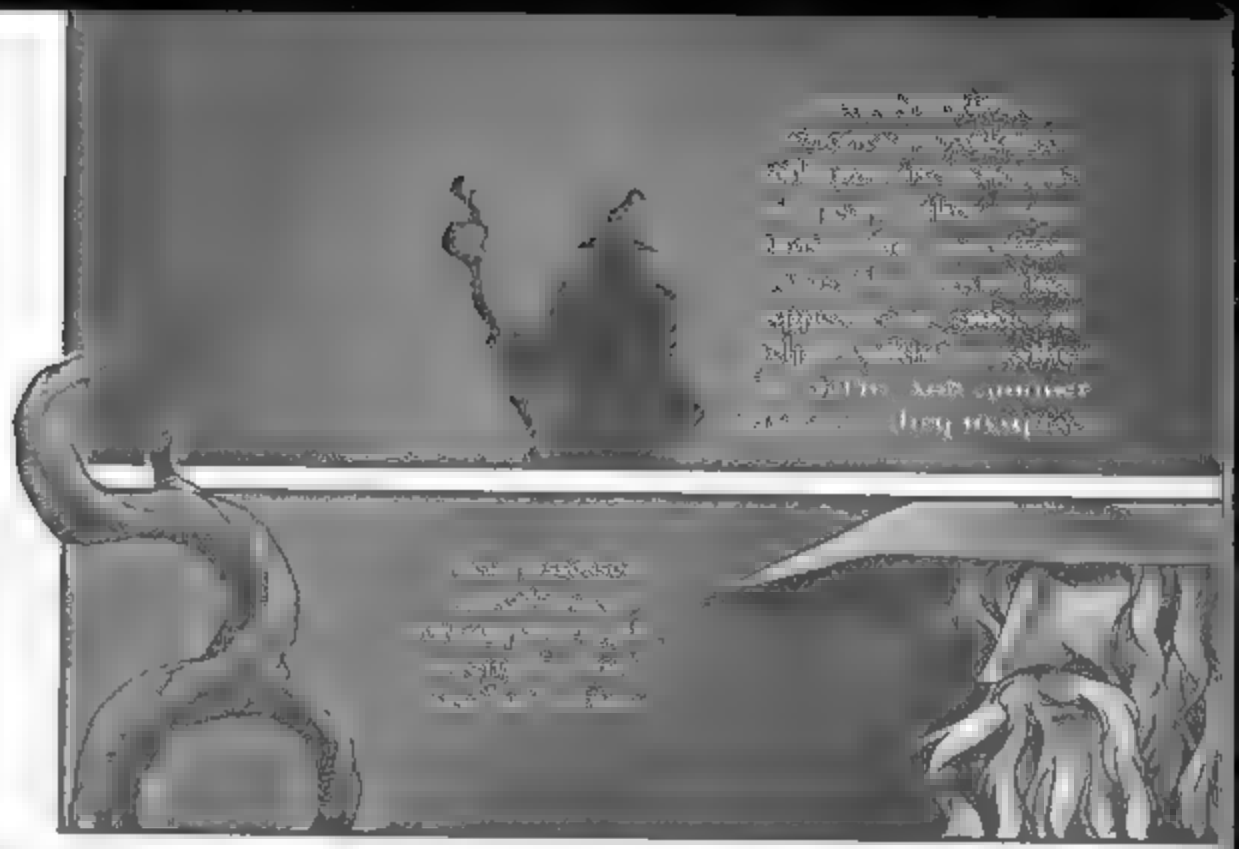


Quest 78

WHAT? ISN'T THERE ONLY ONE CLASS OF SORCERER? AS LONG AS A PERSON HAS THE PROPER TRAIN NG, CAN'T ANYONE...

I MEAN, I KNOW ONE HAS TO HAVE A CERTAIN INHERENT GIFT FOR SORCERY, BUT THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?

COUGH!

THAT'S THE COMMONER'S PERSPECTIVE, YES.

WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT IS THE ORIGIN...OF THE SORCERER

OF COURSE, THE SORCERERS OF THE PAST WERE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF TODAY

OR PERHAPS. PERHAPS T S WE WHO HAVE CHANGED, WHILE THE SORCERERS REMA NED THE SAME...

STOP TALK'NG IN C RCLES AND GET TO THE PO NT. WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT? JEEZ.

PATIENCE AFTER ALL, TIME IS INFINITE, AND INFINITE TIME LEADS TO INFINITE THINKING!

BUT I'LL CUT TO THE CHASE.

WE'LL JUMP OVER WHO THEY ARE, WHAT PART THEY PLAY AFTER THAT, WHAT'S A SORCERER'S LIFE LIKE?

THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE A SORCERER. NO ONE, NOT EVEN THE ELVES, KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM

THEIR LIFE SPANS ARE SIMILAR TO ELVES SO MUCH SO THAT ELVES WHO HAVE LIVED SINCE CREATION ARE STILL FAMILIAR WITH SOME

HMM...

THEY HAVE LONG LIVES, THEY ARE NOT IMMORTAL AND THEIR NUMBERS ARE FEW EVEN IF THEY ARRIVE ASSAULT ONE AND THEY MAY BE CALLED ANOTHER SHOULD THAT CONTINENT HAVE A MORE PRESSING CRISIS

THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING HOW MANY THERE WERE EXACTLY BUT, AT SOME POINT EVEN THAT SMALL NUMBER BEGAN TO DECLINE

AM...I...

...THE LAST ONE LEFT?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. SOME MAY EXIST ON CONTINENTS THAT ARE FAR FROM THE REDLANDS

BUT FOR A FEW CENTURIES NOW THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY ON THIS CONTINENT EVEN THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CRISES, NO ONE HAS COME

THERE IS ONLY THE SMALLEST AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE OF THEIR EXISTENCE LEFT...

EVIDENCE?

WHENEVER HUMANS SAW EVIDENCE OF THE SORCERERS, THEY TRIED TO UNDERSTAND THEM AND YEARNED FOR THE RED POWER

I DON T KNOW IF IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO THAT LONG NG, OR BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO BE CONNECTED TO THE POWER SOMEHOW, BUT THEIR BEHAV ORS BEGAN TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

IT WAS THE SORCERER'S SPECIALTY...

AND THEIR STRENGTH IS LEFT IN THEIR GRANDSONS.

THAT'S HOW HUMANS WERE ABLE TO USE MAGICAL POWERS. IT WAS THE BEGINN NG OF THE GENERATION OF SORCERERS.

STILL, COMPARING THE "WISE MEN" OF TODAY WITH THE SORCERERS OF THE PAST S LIKE COMPAR NG THE KNOWLEDGE OF A NEWBORN BABY TO AN ADULT SCHOLAR

THE SCOPE OF HUMANS, AND THE R UNDERSTAND NG, IS LIMITED

AS THE LINE OF SORCERERS DESCENDED AND AS THEIR BLOOD GOT THINNER, SO DID THEIR SUPERNATURAL POWERS

THERE IS ONLY ONE SORCERER LEFT IN THE REDLANDS THAT IS WORTHY OF THE NAME.

IT IS A PERSON WHO IS SECOND GENERATION IN A DIRECT LINE OF DESCENDANTS, AND WHOSE BLOOD HAS NOT BEEN DILUTED BY THE BLOOD OF HUMANS

TRUE SORCERERS DON'T NEED TO MEMOR ZE SPELLS THEIR POWER S INHERANT ..

SANG... IT IS YOU.

I AM SURE OF TH[illegible] [illegible]CE[illegible] PRESERVED [illegible]UR [illegible]NHERENT POWER BUR[illegible]ED D[illegible]WN [illegible]ASLEEP WAITING TO BE AWAKENE[illegible]

YOU ARE THE TRUE HEIR TO THE LEGACY OF THE SORCERERS.

GLORIOUS SANG.

THAT'S THAT'S A LIE...

IT CAN'T BE ME!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD A NOTHING LIKE ME BE A POWERFUL SORCERER? AND ONE FORETOLD IN LEGEND?

PERHAPS YOUR AMNESIA HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR SKEPTICISM

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 100 YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW YOU SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU DURING THAT TIME

... ...

FINE YOU WANT ME TO PLAY SORCERER? I'LL PLAY ALONG BUT I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS

IF I CAN ANSWER, I WILL

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE MADOSA GUILD?

MADOSA GUILD?

IS IT LIKE THE SORCERER'S GUILD? THEY SAY THAT LONG AGO, A FEW ROGUE SORCERERS FORMED A CABAL OF SORTS.

WAIT..

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

THAT'S RIGHT! I HAVE HEARD ABOUT THEM.

SEVERAL DECADES AGO, THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT THERE WAS A CALL FOR SORCERERS WHOSE GOAL WAS TO RESTORE THE POWER OF THE ORDER

HOW AM I CONNECTED TO THEM? DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT?

HMM. WELL...I DON'T KNOW ANY DETAILS, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

.....

WELL, THAT'S CERTAINLY HELPFUL.

HOW 'BOUT THIS.. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS GLOVE?

GLOVE?

I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT I'M WEARING A RING UNDER THIS GLOVE, BUT THE GLOVE WON'T COME OFF SO I CAN'T CHECK

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU HAD THIS RING WHEN I KNEW YOU BEFORE .

LET ME SEE

HMM.

WHAT? DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMETHING?

LET'S SEE..

HUH?

OW OW OW OW OW! THAT HURTS! STOP!!

UNGH!

HMM, YOU'RE RIGHT, IT WON'T COME OFF

I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT IF I COULD TAKE IT OFF I ALREADY WOULD HAVE.

WELL, I HAD TO BE SURE, YOU SEE.

IT IS BONDED TO YOU WITH MAGIC. ONLY MAGIC CAN REMOVE IT

MAGIC?

WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD DO THAT...?

WHO DO YOU THINK?

DON'T YOU THINK IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN YOU?

WHAT?! WHY THE HELL WOULD I DO THAT?

I CAN'T USE THIS HAND BECAUSE OF THIS GLOVE. I CAN'T EVEN TRIM MY NAILS.

ONLY YOU CAN ANSWER WHY YOU DID T

OR, TO BE MORE EXACT

WHY YOUR OTHER PERSONALITY DID IT

MY OTHER PERSONALITY? YOU LIKE SPEAKING IN RIDDLES, DON'T YOU?

OH!

THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WITHIN YOU

WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER?

THEN THAT MEANS...I HAVE A DUAL PERSONALITY?

NOT EXACTLY. FROM WHAT I KNOW, THERE'S THE PERSONALITY THAT IS YOU. THEN WITHIN YOUR PERSONALITY EXISTS MORE PERSONALITIES

Groan

My back

IN ANY CASE, I'VE HEARD THAT SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN DONE WITH THE STRENGTH OF ONE PERSONALITY CANNOT BE UNDONE WITH THE STRENGTH OF ANOTHER PERSONALITY

THAT'S IT!

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, WHY DON'T YOU ASK YOURSELF?

ASK MYSELF?

YOU MEAN LIKE A VENTRILOQUIST?

NO, I MEAN WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO YOURSELF THROUGH THAT MIRROR?

MIRROR?

YOU CAN TALK TO YOUR OTHER SELVES... HOPEFULLY, THEY LIKE YOU ENOUGH TO TALK BACK

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

Quest 79

UNGH

WHAT.. WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE AM I?

OOOF... MY HEAD...

OOH I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE'S USED MY HEAD AS A TRAMPOLINE..

THAT'S RIGHT! THAT DAMN SHE-DEVIL...!!

WHAT'S THIS?

MMMM

WHAT'S THIS I FEEL

NO... NOTRA?!

WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE...?

MMM..

DEV .?

WHERE . ARE WE?

H2 H2

WE . WELL? I JUST WOKE UP TOO, SO

I DIED? WHAT ARE YOU TALK NG ABOUT? THEN WHY AM I STANDING HERE WITH MY TWO EYES OPEN COMPLETELY HEALTHY?

WAS IT ALL A DREAM?

Huh?

DO...YOU THINK WE'RE INSIDE THAT MASTER TOWER?

HUH? WELL

IT'S SO DARK IN HERE, BUT THE D MENSIONS SEEM RIGHT

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN? WHY AM I..

AHH ..!!

WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU HURT SOMEWHERE?

HURT ? NO THERE'S..

I WAS DEFINITELY WOUNDED HERE...

DEV WAS DEAD AND I WAS THINKING NOW I'M GO NG TO DIE BUT I FEEL COMPLETELY FINE .

NOW THAT I TH NK ABC UT T I GUESS THAT S POSS BLE

MAKES ABOUT AS MUCH SENSE AS ANYTH NG THAT S HAPPENED LATELY

I WONDER IF SOMEONE BROUGHT US HERE FOR SAFETY?

I DON'T KNOW WE HAVE TO FIND OUT...

WHO?

또각 또각

THOSE LEAD UPSTAIRS

SO?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "SO?" THERE MIGHT BE SOMEONE DOWNSTAIRS TOO

I THINK WE SHOULD GO UPSTAIRS! WE'LL GO DOWN LATER!!

MAYBE .. MAYBE WE SHOULD SPLIT UP.

YOU'RE PLANNING ON GOING UP?

WHAT, YOU WANNA JUST SIT HERE? WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED

SO LET'S SEE..

HUH? WAIT...

THEY GO DOWNSTAIRS TOO?

YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO SEND A SMALL G RL LIKE ME BY HERSELF?

ARE YOU GO NG TO BE RESPONSIBLE IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME?

TAKE THE LEAD'

YES, MA AM...

타박 타박

HOW MANY STAIRS CAN THERE BE?

WHAT?

IS THAT SOMEONE TALKING UPSTAIRS?

SEE?! I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD GO UPSTAIRS!!

BUT WHAT IF ONE OF THE OTHERS IS WHOLEHEARTEDLY DEVOTED?

SIMPLY BEING WHOLEHEARTEDLY DEVOTED WILL NOT BE ENOUGH. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CUT DOWN A BIG TREE WITH JUST A DAGGER?

주걸

주걸

SO IN OTHER WORDS.

NATURALLY..

ARE YOU SURE? THIS IS A SAFE PROPOSAL?

HUH?

SANG!

WHAT...!

OH!

HEY GUYS. YOU WOKE UP!

WHAT...? SO IT WAS YOU?

YOU'RE NOT HAPPY THAT I HELPED YOU?

EEE

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING UP HERE?

HUH? THERE'S CHUN-LANG... AND, THE OTHER ONE 'S THAT A STUDENT FROM ATHENA?

WHAT ARE THEY DOING STAND NG N FRONT OF THE MIRRORS? ARE THEY N LOVE W TH THE R REFLECTIONS?

OH...THEM... THEY'RE...

HERE WE GO. FIVE HOURS OF EXPOSITION FROM TALKY MCGEE

LISTEN UP KIDS!

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME SO I'M GONNA MAKE IT NICE AND QUICK!

I TOLD YOU, YOU DON T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TIME

THIS PLAN 'S ON THE SAFE SIDE BUT I CAN'T GUARANTEE FOR HOW LONG SO THAT'S WHY THERE ARE SOME THINGS WE NEED TO DO RIGHT NOW!

POINTING IS STILL A BAD HAB T OF HERS

THINGS WE NEED TO DO?

DO YOU THINK THOSE PEOPLE OUTSIDE ARE STILL BATTLING?

THERE'S STILL LOTS OF THEM OUT THERE, AND IT SEEMS LIKE THEIR GOAL IS TO BARGE IN HERE, SO EVENTUALLY THEY'RE GOING TO DO IT! AND THIS PLACE IS LIKE A DEAD END! THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE FOR US TO GO!!

IT'S NOT EXACTLY A DEAD-END...

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR US TO ESCAPE, BUT IN ORDER FOR US TO DO THAT, THERE'S ONE COURSE WE'RE REQUIRED TO PASS THROUGH!

IT'S DANGEROUS, BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!

WHAT?! YOU MEAN YOU WANT US TO RUN AWAY FROM THOSE JERKS?!

YOU WANT US FLEE LIKE COWARDS?

YEAH!!

SHUT UP! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO LISTEN TO YOUR COMPLAINTS!!

JUST LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY! YOU CAN MAKE YOUR DECISION AFTER!!

IF YOU DECIDE YOU WANT TO DIE I WON'T STOP YOU! YOU SHOULD BE FAMILIAR WITH HOW IT FEELS BY NOW!

FIRST, STAND IN FRONT OF THAT MIRROR! SECOND, TALK TO IT!!

YOU SURE SEEM CONFIDENT ABOUT SOMETH NG YOU WEREN'T SO SURE OF WHEN I TOLD YOU

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO SHUT UP?!

UH..YOU BROKE ONE OF THE MIRRORS

WELL, THERE'S STILL PLENTY TO GO AROUND SO SHUT UP!

NOW... IF YOU PASS THE TEST...

WE'LL GATHER TOGETHER AND PASS THROUGH THE "GATE" IN THE BASEMENT! THIS CONCLUDES MY PLAN SO NOW FEEL FREE TO BITCH AND MOAN AMONGST YOURSELVES!

I I GUESS THERE'S A NEW MASTER IN TOWN

UH..I HAVE A QUESTION

YES! GO AHEAD, MISS NOTRA!!

WHERE DOES THE GATE LEAD TO...

UH, MA'AM?

HEY YOU! OLD MAN! WAKE UP! WHERE DOES THE GATE LEAD TO?

AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TRUST HER...?

...

OH...!

THAT'S RIGHT, I HEARD HIM BEFORE...

IT'S A GATE TO "OLYMPUS."

WHERE WE CAN FULFILL OUR MASTER QUALIFICATION...

Quest 80

WHERE.

AM I?

WUH?

YOU'RE

YOU'RE... NO, THAT'S... ME?

WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE THERE TWO OF ME ?

THERE'S NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. THIS IS YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS... IT'S, TO COIN A PHRASE, "ALL IN YOUR HEAD."

MY IMAGE IS JUST A VISION CREATED BY YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS MIND.

WHAT? A VISION? IS THIS LIKE A DREAM? IT SEEMS... SO REAL...

BUT WHY DOES MY IMAGE HAVE TO LOOK LIKE YOU?

WELL... THIS IS YOUR IMAGE, BUT IT'S NOT IDENTICAL.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

LOOK AT YOURSELF YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR OWN FACE BUT WHY DON'T YOU GET A GOOD LOOK OVER YOUR BODY?

MY BODY? WHAT.

THIS HAND... IS A MAN'S...

THIS THICK ARM! THIS MAGNIFICENT BICEP! I SEE A MAN'S BODY!!

HOW CAN THIS BE? DID MY BODY GO BACK TO IT'S ORIGINAL FORM?

I'M SURE YOU'RE HAPPY, BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE REAL BODY LOOKS LIKE RIGHT NOW

REAL BODY?

OH YEAH I'M STILL A GIRL, BECAUSE OF THE RING..

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOUR GENDER, I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR GROWTH

RIGHT NOW, YOUR MAGE'S THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY THAT YOUR BODY CAN ACHIEVE. IT'S SORT OF LIKE A SNEAK PREVIEW OF THINGS TO COME.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS IT WILL TAKE, BUT IT'S A VISION OF THE FUTURE, SHOULD YOU LIVE TO ACHIEVE IT

THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THAT, OF COURSE, DEPEND ON YOU

THEN THESE CLOTHES..

IT'S THE UNIFORM YOU WORE WHEN YOU WERE AT ZEUS IT'S THE MOST COMFORTABLE OUTFIT IN YOUR MEMORY

HMM.

OKAY I DON'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING, BUT I SORT OF GET IT

MY ONE BIG QUESTION THOUGH

WHO ARE YOU?

DON'T TREAT ME LIKE SUCH A STRANGER.

I'M JUST LIKE YOU.

I AM AN MAGE OF YOUR BODY'S CURRENT FORM AND YOUR FUTURE STATE OF MIND

YOU ARE ME JUST LIKE I AM YOU.

YOU ARE AN IMAGE OF YOUR FUTURE BODY AND YOUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND

WE ARE CONFRONTING EACH OTHER IN ORDER TO GET AN ASSESSMENT OF OUR STRENGTH

.....

OUR... STRENGTH?

1

OR YOU COULD LOOK AT IT AS A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN YOUR BODY AND MIND. YOU PROBABLY CAN'T DETERMINE WHICH ONE IS SUPERIOR. BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE.

AND THE WINNER OF THAT DECIDES EVERYTHING ELSE

WHAT YOU WANTED WAS STRENGTH, RIGHT?

STRENGTH HUH

I WONDER WHAT THIS BODY'S ABILITIES ARE

IF YOU WIN, THEN YOU CAN KEEP YOUR BODY AS IT IS NOW AND LEAVE

DECIDE CAREFULLY. IF YOU WIN, THE CHOICE CANNOT BE UNMADE

BUT IF YOU LOSE, THEN YOU WON'T LEAVE HERE WITH ANYTHING!

NO... THERE IS ONE THING YOU CAN LEAVE WITH.

I'M TALKING ABOUT DEFEAT.

OH, HEY, WAIT! EVEN THOUGH I MIGHT HAVE A STRENGTH ADVANTAGE, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BIT UNFAIR TO FIGHT ME WHEN I DON'T HAVE A WEAPON?

하앙-

WITH THAT BODY, YOU CAN'T FEEL IT?

CHECK THE BACK OF YOUR PANTS

THE BACK OF MY... PANTS?

HUH?

MY SWORD..! IT'S THE ONE I LOST IN THE RESTORATION FOREST..

IT WAS A PRESENT FROM YOUR FATHER, RIGHT?

YOUR FAVORITE, "DUAL SWORD" IF YOU WANT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU AS A PRESENT IF YOU WIN

NOW... ARE YOU READY?

I THINK I UNDERSTAND THE POINT OF THIS TEST. BUT ISN'T THIS TOO EASY?

I JUST DON'T THINK I'M GONNA LOSE DON'T YOU THINK YOU NEED A HANDICAP OR SOMETHING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HANDICAP?"

BACK AT ZEUS, YOU WERE ABLE TO DO SOME SIMPLE MAGIC SPELLS, RIGHT?

WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO USE THEM DURING YOUR TEST?

THAT'S RIGHT! I WAS TOLD I HAD A TALENT FOR MAGIC, SO I TOOK A MAGIC CLASS

FIREBALL!

LET'S SEE.

OH! IT WORKED!!

WHAT ? I WAS NEVER *THIS* POWERFUL THIS SEEMS AS STRONG AS A SORCERER'S MAGIC

DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW? THE LATENT POWER OF YOUR BODY...

THIS IS HOW STRONG I CAN BE? I..

BUT NOW INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU A HANDICAP, THE GAP BETWEEN OUR ABILITIES HAS WIDENED EVEN MORE. WHY DID YOU TELL ME?

IF I HADN'T TOLD YOU THAT, THE GAP WOULD'VE BEEN EVEN WIDER.

SLASH
SLASH
UNGH!!
SO FAST... NO THIS IS...
I ONLY HAVE HALF YOUR STRENGTH THERE'S NOTH NG I CAN DO ABOUT THAT
IF YOU CAN'T OVERCOME THAT, THEN YOU WILL EARN NOTH NG!

I WON'T BE CONVINCED OTHERWISE!

HMM

JUST AS I THOUGHT

Quest 81

UUNNGHH!

LAND VIOLENCE DECAPITATION!!

...

HEE-YAHHH!! AWESOME!

I'M TEN TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN I USED TO BE!!

AND...

THIS SPEED...!!

MY BODY FEELS AS LIGHT AS A FEATHER!!

OOF!!

YOU DIDN'T EVEN SEEM TO FEEL THAT ATTACK?

HMPH. YOU'RE QUITE GOOD AT ESCAPING MY BLOWS

FINE, THEN THIS TIME..

SHALL I TRY SOME MAGIC?

MAGIC MISSILE!!

IF I WERE YOU, THEN OF COURSE THAT WOULD BE THE CASE

FLIP

IT CAN FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE! I DOUBT YOU CAN ESCAPE THAT!

?!!

YOU BLOCKED MY FIRST MISSILE BY DEFLECTING IT?

THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA.

HA HA HA— THIS TIME YOU COUNTERATTACK? BUT YOU'RE SO MUCH SLOWER THAN ME?!

THE STRENGTH IN YOUR SWORD IS SO WEAK, TOO!!

HUH?!

WHILE I WAS DISTRACTED BY YOUR SWORD YOU BLOCKED MY LEG BY STEPPING ON MY PIVOT FOOT..

WASN'T THAT A LITTLE SILLY? I'M ONE AHEAD OF YOU! SO THIS IS MY FUTURE MIND.

BUT WHAT A DIFFERENCE THIS STRENGTH MAKES!

JUST..?!

THIS TIME YOU USE MY OWN STRENGTH TO REBOUND ?

I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT AT ALL

UNGH...!!

?!

UNGH!!

YOU ATTACK AND AT THE SAME TIME YOU THROW YOUR SWORD AND GET ME IN THE BACK ?

I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT.

DON'T YOU GET IT YET?

IN THIS BATTLE, YOU JUST SUFFERED THREE POTENTIALLY FATAL BLOWS

WITH YOUR NEW MORE POWERFUL BODY, I IMAGINE THEY STING YOUR PRIDE MOST OF ALL. STILL THINK I NEED YOUR OFFER OF A HANDICAP?

...!

I'VE BEEN GOING EASY ON YOU.

HEH HEH HEH...

SO THIS IS WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT ?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I GUESS THE LESSON WAS THAT EVEN WITH THAT BODY YOU MADE THE MOST OF IT AND BETTERED YOURSELF?

SO THAT'S WHY YOU MENTIONED HAVING ONLY HALF MY STRENGTH YOU WANTED ME TO LEARN FROM YOU?

GAINING GREATER STRENGTH IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS HOW I USE WHAT STRENGTH I DO HAVE?

ROUND TWO! YOU BETTER WATCH YOURSELF THIS TIME!

SHALL I TRY A PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF WHAT I'VE LEARNED IN ACTUAL BATTLE NOW?

YOU'VE PASSED!

WHAT WAS THIS? AN ORAL TEST? YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED?

THIS WAS AS MUCH A TEST OF SPIRIT AND INTELLIGENCE AS IT WAS OF STRENGTH.

OH, I SEE YOU SLAP ME AROUND A BIT AND THEN TELL ME I CAN'T FIGHT BACK?

DON'T MAKE ME RETHINK THE INTELLIGENCE PORTION OF THE TEST.

YOU REALIZED THE TRUTH... AND YOU PASS.

...

ALL RIGHT I ACCEPT THIS LESSON, AND WILL APPLY IT ACCORDINGLY

THANK YOU.

ONLY THREE BLOWS!

BYE NOW! I'LL SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

FOR SOME REASON I DON'T FEEL VERY SATISFIED I DON'T GET ANYTHING BUT A FEW BEATINGS.

OH WELL THIS IS IT I GUESS

SHOULD I RELEASE SOME OF THIS FRUSTRATION ON THOSE GUYS OUT THERE?

Quest 82

PHEW! WHERE AM I ? AM I BACK TO REALITY?
HE IT'S JUST A NORMAL MIRROR NOW? THERE'S NO REASON TO DRAG ME IN THERE NOW, RIGHT?

BUT
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DO NG RIGHT NOW?
HUH?
THEY SAY THAT LIKE ATTRACTS LIKE. YOU ALSO HAVE BAD HABITS W TH YOUR HANDS.
I DON'T THINK YOU RE ONE TO TALK ABOUT BAD HAB TS WITH YOUR HANDS
OK, SO WHAT'S THE RESULT? DID YOU F ND THAT STRENGTH YOU WERE YEARNING FOR?
WELL LET'S SEE I DON'T FEEL ANY BIG CHANGES R GHT NOW..
BUT SOMEHOW I THINK I DID

I GUESS I'LL FIND OUT IF I PUT ON MY RING. IF I TRANSFORM BACK INTO A MAN, I SHOULD BE MUCH STRONGER THAN I WAS BEFORE

TH-THAT R NG!

W-WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

STOP! IF YOU PUT THAT RING ON RIGHT NOW, THEN

!!

WHOA! THERE'S A REACTION!

HOHOHOH

OH MY GOODNESS.. DID HE REALLY HAVE TO RUIN THE IMAGE..?

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SEE A MAN WEARING A SKIRT...

EEEK!!

THE SKIRT THAT HID THAT LITTLE BUTT UNTIL NOW..

UH BY ANY CHANCE..DO YOU HAVE ANY EXTRA PANTS ANYWHERE?

YES, DO US *BOTH* A FAVOR.

I WORE THESE WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I THINK THEY'LL FIT

WELL, IT'S NOT MY STYLE, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING MY CHEEKS IN THE WIND

BUT I REALLY LEFT WITH THE DUAL SWORD... HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

IT'S SO SIMILAR TO THE SWORD I HAD THAT I CAN'T REALLY TELL THE DIFFERENCE. IS THIS POSSIBLE?

OH HO! I GUESS SHE REALLY DID APPROVE OF YOU, TO HAVE LET YOU LEAVE WITH A "SHARD FROM YOUR MEMORY."

A SHARD FROM MY MEMORY?

THEY'RE PIECES OF YOUR MEMORY THAT ACTUALLY EXIST AND HELP TO FORM YOUR MEMORY. DON'T SIMPLY LOOK AT IT AS AN IMITATION. IT IS AS REAL AS YOU REMEMBER IT.

DO YOU REALLY THINK SO??

YES. IT'S AN EXCHANGE OF EXISTENCE THROUGH SPACE AND TIME USING SORCERY.

IN PLAIN ENGLISH, PLEASE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING YOU'RE SAYING

TO PUT IT SIMPLY THE ITEM YOU TREASURE THE MOST THAT HAS MOST INTENSELY BEEN CARVED IN YOUR MEMORY, HAS BEEN MOVED AT OTH-S T ME AND SPACE

WHEN THAT HAPPENED IT LEFT THE TIME AND SPACE IT WAS IN OF COURSE, IN ORDER FOR THAT "HAPPEN" TWO REQUIREMENTS MUST BE SATISFIED

FIRST, IT HAS TO BE AN ITEM THAT IS NOT CURRENTLY IN YOUR POSSESSION THIS IS OBVIOUS THE MORE IMPORTANT ONE IS THE SECOND REQUIREMENT

THE CONCERNED PARTY MUST CHERISH AND EMBODY THAT IMAGE IN HIS THOUGHTS INTENSELY. IN OTHER WORDS, IT MUST HAVE BEEN CHERISHED FOR A LONG TIME IN THE PAST, AND AT THE SAME TIME BE THE PRESENT'S MOST CHERISHED ITEM.

THE SWORD MUST MEAN A LOT TO YOU.

MY FATHER LEFT THIS TO ME WHEN HE DIED.

HE WAS MY TEACHER.

WELL... THIS SWORD WAS IN MY HANDS FOR OVER 10 YEARS.

BUT...THIS IS NOT MY SWORD.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THE NAME OF THIS SWORD IS "DUAL SWORD."

IT MATCHES THE ABILITY OF ITS USER AND GROWS ACCORDINGLY.

THE ADORNMENTS ARE DIFFERENT TOO, AND THE WEIGHT OF IT...I GUESS IT'S DESIGNED TO PROVE THAT MY ABILITIES HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED EVEN MORE

CONGRAT-ULATIONS

I GUESS THOSE GUYS ARE HERE TO TAKE THE TEST TOO.

UNLESS IT'S GRADUATION TIME, THIS PLACE ISN'T USUALLY OPEN. I WONDER HOW MANY ARE PLANN NG ON TAK NG TESTS TODAY...

AREN'T THEY BEARING ANY RISK? FOR SOME REASON, I SENSE THAT THEY THINK IT MIGHT BE A CINCH...

THIS HAPPENS ONLY ONCE DUR NG YOUR LIFE.

THAT'S WHY IT S IMPORTANT THAT YOU TAKE THE TEST WHEN YOUR ABILITY HAS GROWN, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULTS

YOU CAN'T BE TOO MMATURE, BUT THERE'S ALSO NOTHING TO GAIN FROM BEING TOO SERIOUS E THER.

THAT'S HOW MUCH CONTROL ONE MUST HAVE OVER HIS "STRENGTH" IF THAT MEANS T MIGHT BE DANGEROUS, THEN THAT IS HOW IT MUST BE.

ANYONE WHO CHASES AFTER STRENGTH WILL SECURE IT EVENTUALLY... ALTHOUGH, YOU CAN'T SIMPLY LOOK AT IT AS A TEST TO PASS

PASS?

I CAN'T JUST SEE THE INCREASE IN MY ABILITIES AS AN ACH EVEMENT IN ITSELF?

THE MASTER TOWER'S DOUBT LIES IN THERE THE "LATENCY MIRROR" IS SIMPLY ONE STEP OF THE PROCESS

THE TRUE GOAL IS TO BE PROMOTED.

PROMOTED?

ISN'T IT A GRADUATION EXAM? HAVE TO ATTEND BEFORE I CAN TAKE MORE LEARN AT ZEUS

TO BECOME TO ZEUS BEEN BLESSED WITH THE HONORS OF GRADUATION EXAMS OF THE SCHOOLS

I TOOK THE ZEUS GRADUATION EXAM AT A PLACE CALLED MEGARA'S ORIGIN THAT'S WHERE I GOT THIS RING

YOU'RE MORE THAN QUALIFIED TO BE PROMOTED TO OLYMPUS

OLYMPUS?

IT IS THE ORIGIN OF ATHENA AND ZEUS AS WELL AS AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY YOU COULD EVEN THINK OF ATHENA AND ZEUS AS BRANCHES OF OLYMPUS

THIS MASTER TOWER IS A TYPE OF TRANSMISSION TOWER IT SENDS THOSE WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO OLYMPUS

THOSE THAT ARE ENDOWED WITH THE DESIGNATION "MASTER," BECAUSE OF THEIR ABILITIES, ARE SENT TO THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY, OLYMPUS

I WON'T BE GOING

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THOSE WHO KNOW OF ITS EXISTENCE DESIRE TO GO THERE

I NOTICED THAT YOU ARE BETTER THAN MOST AT CONTROLLING YOUR STRENGTH.

I GUESS T WOULDN'T BE SO BAD BEING PROMOTED

NO, I DO DESIRE IT. I YEARN FOR IT.

STRENGTH .

NO MATTER WHAT ROAD I HAD TO TAKE IF I LOOK AT EVERYTH NG I'VE DONE THERE S BEEN NO ROOM FOR ANY OTHER REASON N ALL MY DEC SIONS

THE MADOSA GUILD!

IT WAS ALL TO DEMOLISH THEM.

IT IS MY CALLING.

IT S ALREADY DETERMINED WHO WILL BE THE VICTOR!

THE ENEMIES OF MY DEAD PARENTS! I WILL AVENGE THEIR DEATHS!!

I'LL STRIKE DOWN THE RINGLEADER OF THE MADOSA GUILD!!

IF ONLY TO PREVENT MORE DEATH AT THE R HANDS

JUST NOW

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

DID YOU SAY MADOSA GUILD?!

Quest 83

DID YOU JUST SAY . MADOSA GUILD?

NOEL?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MADOSA GUILD?

HOW COULD I FORGET. THEY... TO MY .

MY MOTHER... THEY KILLED HER.

HOW COULD I FORGET SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

NOEL... YOUR PARENTS TOO...?

WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT.. IT'S STILL FRESH IN MY MEMORY...

MOMMY

I REFUSE! DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO GO ALONG WITH THAT PLAN!

HMPH! SO YOU'VE RESORTED TO BEGGING ME, A REJECT, FOR MY STRENGTH? HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN.

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY

EVEN IF YOU ARE A CLOSE FRIEND OF H.S. YOU'RE CROSSING A LINE

TSK TSK. WE SPENT YEARS SEARCHING FOR YOU, AND THIS IS WHAT WE GET?

YOU'VE MADE YOUR DECISION IN HASTE.

SHUT YOUR MOUTH! THAT'S NOT THE SAME PERSON I KNEW

IS THERE A POSS BIL TY YOU MIGHT CHANGE YOUR MIND?

PRESIDENT HYUP WAS EVEN TH NK NG ABOUT GIVING YOU A POS T ON IN THE ORDER RANK

THAT'S HOW HIGHLY HE THOUGHT OF YOU IF YOU DON'T COOPERATE WITH US, .T PUTS ME N A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION

EVEN SO, I WON'T GO ALONG W TH SUCH CRAZ.NESS.

NOT A CHANCE N HELL!

SUCH IS OUR LUCK I DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO RESORT TO THIS BUT

PLEASE DIE.

WE RAN AWAY SHE WAS CARRYING ME.

I SLOWED HER DOWN. IT'S MY FAULT SHE DIED.

GASP

GASP

IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, MY MOTHER MIGHT HAVE ESCAPED SOMEWHERE FAR, WHERE THEY COULDN'T GET THEIR HANDS ON HER...

BECAUSE OF ME.

MOMMY

IT'S OKAY, NOEL. YOUR MOMMY'S WITH YOU, SO DON'T WORRY

DAMN! HOW DID

PLEASE . LET US STOP THIS, MADAM.

YOU'VE REACHED THE END.

THERE'S NO WHERE YOU CAN RUN TO

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE AN EXCELLENT SORCERESS, THERE S NOTH NG YOU CAN DO HERE

MOMMY

YOU'RE GOING TC TRY TO USE YOUR SPELLS UNTIL THE VERY END?!

RED WIND!

...!!

A SUITABLE MEANS TO PAY THE PRICE

THIS AGREEMENT IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME LET NO ONE NTERFERE..

HUH EVEN AFTER THAT BLOW, SHE'S STILL USING SPELLS !

HORSE'S LENGTH SUMMONS!!

HORSE'S LENGTH SUMMONS?! THAT DEMON WITH THE WHITE WINGS ..

WHAT A SHAME IF SHE IS *THAT* CAPABLE.

TO REISSUE AND MATERIALIZE THIS BODY QUITE A GREAT FEAT FOR A HUMAN.

THIS BODY IS A PERFECT ONE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTRACT FOR ME TO CARRY SOMETHING THAT'S TOO HEAVY.

THAT'S ENOUGH I DIDN'T INVOKE SUCH A SUPERIOR DEMON JUST TO BORROW HIS STRENGTH

UH UH UH

I DID IT BECAUSE THE CONTRACT HAS WEIGHT I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THE AGREEMENT WILL CONTINUE. EVEN IF SOMEONE TRIES TO INTRUDE OR DESTROY THE AGREEMENT

I UNDERSTAND

WHAT IS IT YOU WISH?

TAKE CARE OF MY DAUGHTER TAKE HER SOMEWHERE THEY CAN'T PUT THEIR HANDS ON HER

.AND TAKE CARE OF THIS CHILD AS LONG AS YOU CAN.

AARGH! DO YOU THINK WE CAN DEFEAT HIM? A DEMON OF SUCH POWER

WELL I DOUBT WE CAN TAKE HIM WITH ARMED COMBAT ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH HIM, AND WAIT UNTIL THE CONTRACT ENDS

When entering into a contract with a demon only the two parties involved are able to hear the terms

THIS IS YOUR MOST ARDENT DESIRE? THAT I CARE FOR THIS WHELP? I AM NO WETNURSE, WOMAN!

IS THIS THE CHILD?

VERY WELL. I WILL DO IT!

UH?

MO- MOMMY!

I CANNOT REMA N ON TH'S PLANE MUCH LONGER ARE THERE ANY LAST WORDS YOU W:SH TO MPART TO THE CHILD?

MOMMY!

WHO WHO S TH S PERSON? I M SCARED! LET ME GO

MOMMY! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS.. ?!

I THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD COME BUT I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT AN APPROPR ATE THING TO SAY

GO AND TAKE HER TH S CANE IS LIKE A PART OF MYSELF, I'VE HAD IT LONGER THAN I'VE HAD YOU

EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY A SMALL PORTION OF ALL I WOULD HAVE DONE FOR YOU, T WILL BE HELPFUL TO YOU

THERE ARE...SO MANY THINGS I HAD PLANNED ON DO NG FOR YOU...PLEASE FORGIVE YOUR STUP'D MOTHER.

MY DAUGHTER...

Quest 84

SNIFF SNIFF SN FF SN FF..

MY FATHER, THE CHIEF GUARD OF THE KING'S PALACE AND .

..MY MOTHER, A MEMBER OF THE CHOIR THEY WEREN'T IN ANY SOCIAL POSITION TO BE AN OBSTACLE OR CAUSE HARM TO THEIR ORGANIZATION

WHAT ..BC..T NCEL'S MOTHER A SORCERESS? WAS SHE SUCH A POWERFUL SORCERESS THAT THEY WERE THREATENED BY HER?

... ..

L TTLE GIRL, D D YOU SAY "THE DEMON W TH THE WHITE WINGS"?

THAT'S WHO TOOK CARE OF YOU?

I..MISS MY MOM.

SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED? THEY DID THAT TO NOEL'S MOTHER, TOO?

BUT ..WHY? WHAT DO NOEL'S PARENTS AND MY PARENTS HAVE IN COMMON?

I...I'M NOT A LITTLE GIRL

UH I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT NEVER MIND THAT, WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT DEMON AFTER THAT?

IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER I JUST RECALL OPENING MY EYES AND I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME VILLAGE I NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN AFTER THAT

IS THAT SO? JUST AS I THOUGHT

AT LEAST FOR NOW, TH S CHILD HAS NO REASON TO WORRY ABOUT LOSING HER LIFE

I OVERHEARD YOU KIDS TALK NG AND T SOUNDS LKE THE MADOSA GUILD HAS MANY PROBLEMS IN ITS HOME.

DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR GOAL IS, BUT THE FACT THAT THEY KILL SO BRAZENLY IT D SGUSTS ME

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM.

N NOW?

000 ?!

MY STRENGTH IS BETTER THAN I EXPECTED, HUH?

I THINK THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO DEMOLISH THE MADOSA GUILD.

DEV?

YOU GUYS

IS THAT THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF FEEL BETTER?

WHAT DID YOU GUYS JUST SAY?!

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MADOSA GUILD, TOO?

ARE YOU KIDDING? THEY INVADED OUR SCHOOL, KILLED OUR STUDENTS

THOSE SONS OF BITCHES KILLED MY FRENDS AND MY BIG BROTHER!

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A MOMENT-- NOT EVEN ONE SECOND-- THAT I DON'T THINK ABOUT THEM! AND I WON'T STOP UNTIL THEY ARE DEAD BY MY HAND!

...

HEH HEH...

HA HA HA HA!!!

HAH!

CHUN-LANG?

WHAT? IT'S HAPPENED HE F NALLY CRACKED UNDER THE PRESSURE

HE WASN'T HERE BEFORE IS HE NEW?

HE CHANGES GENDER ? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE'S WEAR NG THE SAME RING THAT SANG WEARS?

OH. HE'S CHUN-LANG. SOMET'MES HE'S A GIRL, SOMET'MES A GUY. WEIRD

RING?

HEE HEE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE REASONS ARE, BUT THIS SURE IS AN AMAZ NG COINCIDENCE!

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IS THIS SOME KINDA GATHERING PLACE FOR MOURNERS WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES TO THE MADOSA GUILD?

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I WONDER IF SANG DOESN'T HAVE SOME REASON TO RESENT THEM TOO.

COULDN'T THIS BE A GOOD THING? W TH OUR COMBINED STRENGTH, OUR CHANCES OF BEATING THEM MIGHT BE BETTER

HMPH! DOES THAT MEAN YESTERDAY'S ENEMIES HAVE BECOME OUR BROTHERS TODAY?

HMM

I THINK SANG'S POSITION IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM OURS

AT HADES, ONE OF THE PEOPLE FROM MADOSA GUILD TREATED SANG WITH AN HONORIFIC TITLE AND HELPED HER

WHAT?

옴찔

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CONNECTION THEY HAVE, BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK OF SANG...

HOOOO

WH-WHAT?

CHUN-LANG!!

HEY, WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING...?!

I SHOULD BE ASK NG YOU THE SAME QUESTION!

I'LL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF MADOSA GUILD'S ALLIES! IF THIS BRAT IS ONE TOO, THEN SHE'S NO EXCEPTION!

WE DON'T KNOW IF SANG IS ONE OF THEM! IF ANYTHING, SHE PROTECTED US FROM THEM!

THIS 'S MY CHANCE TO PAY HER BACK! I WON'T LET YOU KILL HER!

GET OUT OF MY WAY!!

I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT I DO TO YOU IF YOU DON'T MOVE

DON'T KID YOURSELF! YOU DON'T HAVE THE STONES, JUNIOR!

YOU WANNA TAKE ME ON?!

MAKE A MOVE. FIND OUT.

HEY YOU TWO, WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?

CHUN-LANG, STOP IT!!

HOLDING!

HUH?!

AAAHHH!!

BAD BOY! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ALMOST DID?

EH...?!

YOU DARE TO DO SOMETH NG TO THE GLORIOUS WIZARD? THE HOPE OF TH S CONTINENT?

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING..

WHAT'S THERE TO KNOW?! IF SHE'S ONE OF THEM, I DON'T CARE WHO SHE IS, I WON'T FORGIVE HER!!

DON'T TH NK YOU CAN JUDGE SOMEONE BASED ON A FEW WORDS FROM SOMEONE ELSE

YOU ARE VERY FOOLISH, BOY!

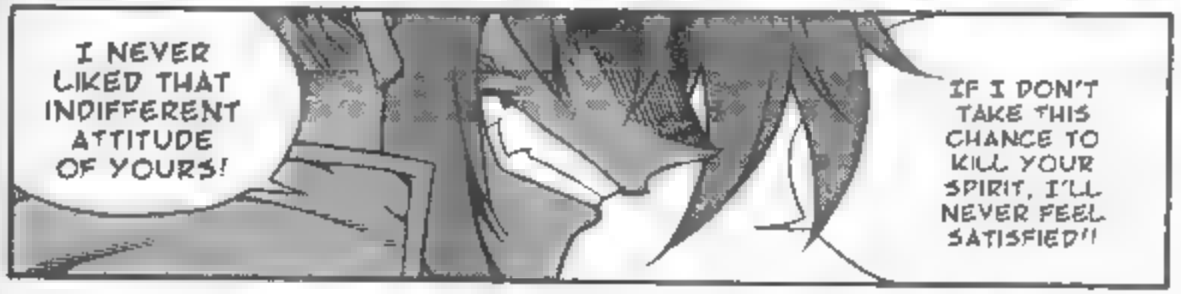
WHEN SHE OPENS HER EYES, SHE CAN ANSWER ALL YOUR QUESTIONS.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER?

DO YOU KNOW HER THOUGHTS? HER INTENTIONS? HAVE HER ACT ONS BETRAYED EITHER? YET YOU SEEK TO SIT N JUDGMENT OF HER?

STOP IT!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!
UGH...

I WON'T STOP I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL GET THIS OPPORTUNITY AGA N
PLEASE.. STOP PLEASE.


I NEVER LIKED THAT INDIFFERENT ATTITUDE OF YOURS!
IF I DON'T TAKE THIS CHANCE TO KILL YOUR SPIRIT, I'LL NEVER FEEL SATISFIED!!

SO, THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD..
I CAN'T STAND THAT WHY DON'T YOU BREAK IT UP?
BUT THEN AGAIN YOU VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO TAKE THE NITIAT VE I DON'T TH NK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO AVOID DESTRUCTION

WAIT, YOU CAN'T BE.

I JUST TOOK CARE OF SOME JERK WHO DISOBEYED ME, AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CHOOSE MY NEXT OPPONENT

HOW D D THIS HAPPEN ? WHY ARE YOU ALL DOING THIS ?

YOU BRING THIS UPON YOURSELF...

TO A WIZARD WHOSE STRENGTH AND ABILITY CAN T CHANGE, THE CONCEPT OF GROWTH DOESN'T EXIST

TO HE WHO AREN'T OBSTRUCTED BY TIME, THE FUTURE S JUST A CONTINUOUS CYCLE THAT CHANGES N CHARACTER AND EXTERNAL SHAPE

BUT EVEN SO, I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ALL OF US EXISTED S MULTANEOUSLY N ONE SPACE

HMPH' I THINK T'S A GOOD TH NG T HAPPENED MIGHT AS WELL TAKE TH S OPPORTUNITY THAT S BEEN GIVEN TO US

TO F ND A WAY TO JUDGE WHO S GO NG TO TAKE CONTROL OF TH S BODY

I THINK THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE JUST FOR ME!

GOOD' GOOD TH S IS EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED''

I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO LET IT GO UNTIL THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT.

I THOUGHT THAT IF I WENT INTO MY INTERIOR AND TALKED TO MYSELF I WOULD FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON I WAS

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO I AM ANYMORE!

WELL IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL, I GUESS YOU WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS!

YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE WHY DON'T YOU JUST SURRENDER AND JUST LET YOURSELF BE CRUSHED?

HEY YOU INSTEAD OF ALWAYS INTERFERING IN WHAT WE DO, WHY DON'T YOU JUST STAY IN THE BACK?

I...

I DON'T DENY YOU NOR DO I WANT TO BE RELIEVED FROM MY EXISTENCE I JUST THINK THAT MY EXISTENCE IS THE REASON WE HAVE MAINTAINED ANY UNDERSTANDING AND BALANCE

NOW THAT WE'VE COME TO THIS, I'M GOING TO FORGET MY FORMER SELF FROM NOW ON ONLY I'M GOING TO EXIST

IN ORDER TO DO THAT, MY FORMER SELF THAT EMBRACED ALL OF YOU I'M GONNA GET HER!

HA!!

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, ULTIMATELY DON'T WE HAVE TO FIGHT IT OUT?!

THAT POOR EXCUSE FOR RATIONALITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOUR ROLE!

WHO HAS THE ABILITIES THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH BEING A TRUE WIZARD?

IT WILL BE DECIDED RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

THEN

THEY'RE HERE..!!
?!!
WHAT WAS THAT? THAT NOISE.
THEY'VE GOTTEN INTO THE TOWER!

H-HUK MY BODY
FEELS LIKE IT'S BEING RIPPED APART
GOOD JOB
I WAS WORRIED THAT YOUR BODY WOULD COLLAPSE BEFORE THE DOOR COULD BE OPENED

EIM!

YOU'VE DONE WELL, YOUNG LADY, YOU CAN REST NOW

SHE'S ALIVE BUT LOOK NG AT HER COND T ON IT DOESN T SEEM LIKE SHE WILL BE FOR LONG

I WASN'T SURE IF SHE COULD BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR HENDUH

BUT SHE PUSHED HERSELF TO EXHAUSTION TO BREACH THAT DOOR ..

ORDER RANK NO 2, SPEAR -

THEY SAY SHE S A WOMAN THAT HAS AN UNKNOWABLE AMOUNT OF STRENGTH

I'M GOING TO HEAD TOWARDS THE MAIN BODY TO GET SOME MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR HENDUH. STON A WHAT WILL YOU DO?

I SHOULD GO WITH YOU I CAN'T DO MUCH IN THIS CONDITION BITHER

I'D BE OF LITTLE USE IN THIS CONDITION

KOOM

TSK TSK I HOPE THERE'S SOMEONE LEFT TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO ME IT LOOKS LIKE THEY JUST UP AND LEFT

NEVERTHELESS... DOES THAT GIRL STILL HAVE SOME LIFE IN HER?

HOW CRUEL... TO DO THIS TO SUCH YOUNG KIDS..

MMM.. MMM

I'M A LITTLE LATE, BUT JUST THINK OF ME AS SOMEONE WHO HAS COME TO HELP

WHO. WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT WHAT ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE.?

COUGH!

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF

COUGH!

NO...LIKE YOU SAID, IT'S TOO LATE...I PROBABLY WON'T GO FAR IN THIS STATE

HEH..IS IT YOUR INTENT ON TO TAKE THE FRUITS OF MY WORK?

IT MIGHT BE LATE, BUT T'S NOT OVER YET

UNTIL DEATH, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO

SOME-THING ..

I CAN DO?

ESPECIALLY IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS...

EVEN AT THIS STAGE ..

...THERE IS MUCH YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

WHAT'S THIS? NO GREETING FOR YOUR GUESTS?

ARE YOU THE ONES KNOWN AS THE MADOSA GUILD?

HMPH' WHO'S THAT OLD MAN? ARE YOU IN CHARGE OF THE TOWER?

HIS NAME S GILDAN

HE HAS FREE COMMAND OF EVERY TYPE OF MAGIC SPELL AND IS A HALF-ELF SORCERER.

EVEN THOUGH HIS BLOODLINE S NOT PURE, T DOESN'T MATTER HE S BEEN ACCEPTED AS A SUCCESSOR TO THE GROUP WITHIN THE THIRD RING OF ELVES, BAYA'

HE'S THE ONE WHO TURNED DOWN AN NVITATION TO BE ORDER RANK NO 1, WHERE THE GUILD WAS FIRST FOUNDED

I SEE

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO...

THEY HAD SUCH AN ABSURD PLAN. WHAT WAS IT ? I DON'T REMEMBER THE DETAILS, BUT...

HMPH IT DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH MERIT TO BE WORTH REMEMBERING.

SHOULD I KILL THAT OLD MAN?

IF DAGGER WANTS TO, THEN I AGREE

I'D ALSO LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEST MYSELF AGAINST SOMEONE WHO WAS INVITED TO BE THE ORDER RANK NO. 1

THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH THAT RIGHT?

DO AS YOU LIKE...

PLEASE DON'T DISAPPOINT ME!

NOOO

GRR...!!

WHAT - WHAT'S GOING ON?

EVEN THOUGH I'M STRONGER NOW, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER AND I I FEAR THEM...

MY BODY SEEMS TO BE TELLING ME THAT IF WE FIGHT RIGHT NOW WE HAVE NO CHANCE OF WINNING.

I DON'T WANT TO AGREE WITH YOU BUT I FEEL THE SAME

WERE THEY HIDING THEIR STRENGTH UNTIL NOW?

IT FEELS LIKE EVEN THE ENERGY THEY'RE GIVING OFF IS PRESSING AGAINST MY CHEST. I CAN HARDLY BREATHE

I THINK I KNOW WHY

WHAT?

HOW SHALL I PUT THIS?

THINK OF IT IN TERMS OF SIZE WHEN WE WERE WEAKER WE WERE TOO SMALL TO ENVISION THE ENTIRE SCOPE OF THEIR POWER IT WAS BEYOND US

NOW THAT WE'RE STRONGER, WE CAN SEE THEM FOR WHAT THEY TRULY ARE AND WE STILL DON'T MEASURE UP

HUH? I DON'T GET IT

NOW I THINK YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND HOW RECKLESSLY YOU ALL ACTED BEFORE..

BEFORE YOU WERE AT LEVEL 10, BUT NOW YOU'RE AT LEVEL 100

COMPARED TO THAT, THEY'RE AT LEVEL 1000, HUNDREDS OF LEVELS ABOVE YOU

GRR...I FEEL LIKE IF WE FIGHT THEM, TO THEM IT'LL BE LIKE THROWING AN EGG ON A ROCK!

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, OLD MAN?

OUT OF ALL OF US YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STAND AGAINST THEM?

SIGH..

DAMN... DAMMIT ALL!!

DON'T YOU THINK THAT DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR ESPECIALLY IN A FIGHT WHERE THE OUTCOME IS SO OBVIOUS?
WHO ARE YOU?

ALL THE DESTRUCTION YOU'VE CREATED STILL ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU?

I SENSE A FORCE AT THE BACK OF MY MIND, BUT I CAN'T MAKE ANYTHING OF IT WHY NOT?

THE FORCE IS WEAK, BUT NOT SO WEAK THAT I CAN'T SENSE ANYTHING AT ALL.

IS HE CAPABLE OF MASKING THE FORCES?

HE'S NO ORDINARY MAN

IT'S SWELLING... THIS FORCE. FROM SOMEWHERE...

WHAT? WHO ARE YOU?

WHO IS THAT? HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE AN ENEMY BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN HE'S ONE OF US, EITHER

IT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU FEEL

WE ALSO KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN DIFFUSE ALL FORCES LIKE HIM

IMPOSSIBLE. ?!

PRESIDENT HYUP CHANG CHUN OF THE MADOSA GUILD

THIS FORCE IS THE SAME AS HIS.

THAT'S A LIE! HOW COULD THAT PERSON BE..?

DON'T KID YOURSELF! THE PRES DENT HYUP THAT I KNOW SN'T THAT OLD!!

I CAN ACCEPT THAT THE FORCE IS SIMILAR, BUT THE INTENS TY IS DIFFERENT!!

THERE'S NO INTENS TY AND OVERPOWERING FEEL NG AT ALL!!

PRESIDENT HYUP CHANG CHUN.

IS THAT THE RULER YOU SERVE?

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT? IS HE ON THE R S DE? OR WHAT IS HE?

DON'T ASK ME I'M CONFUSED TOO.

HOW LONG ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND THERE WATCHING?

THEIR ATTENTION IS COMPLETELY ON ME

IF YOU DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION RIGHT NOW, YOU CANNOT PREVAIL AGAINST THEM

THE VOICE INSIDE MY HEAD - WHOSE IS IT?'

...

THEY DEFINITELY AREN'T THINKING ABOUT US RIGHT NOW THEY RE COMPLETELY DEFENSELESS AND WE'RE NOT IN THEIR LINE OF VISION

IS IT HIM ? THE PERSON THAT'S SENDING ME MESSAGES

LET'S SEE IF THE VOICE IS RIGHT..

...?!!

DEV TOO...?!

IS IT POSSIBLE AS DID HE GET THE SAME MESSAGE AS ME ?

HUH?!

OH

...!!

OOF...!!

THAT WAS A RASH THING TO DO...

I THINK YOU SHOULD STAY RIGHT THERE.

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO SEVER YOUR SLENDER WAIST.

.....

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?! THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR LOOKING DOWN ON US!!

IT WAS A MISTAKE.

WHAT?!

TSK TSK, WE WERE BEING A LITTLE ABSENT MINDED

BUT WHY DID THEY HAVE TO ATTACK US, OF ALL PEOPLE...?

BECAUSE WE'RE CLOSEST TO HENDUH'S RANK.

SPEAR HAS AN EXCUSE, DUST'S WHAT'S YOURS, JUST STANDING THERE?

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! YOU SHOULD BE THANKING ME

IF I WEREN'T KEEPING WATCH, THEN HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SLICED YOU INTO PIECES BY NOW!

AT LAST! FOLLOW ME!

DON'T MISUNDERSTAND MY INTENTIONS I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE NTIM DATING.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.. WHY DO WE HAVE TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE EXTERIOR OF THE TOWER?

I'LL GIVE YOU THE DETAILS LATER, FOR NOW JUST FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS.

I'LL TRUST YOU. FOR NOW

EXTERIOR? DO YOU MEAN WE RE GOING TO RUN FROM THEM?

THE PLAN FALLS SHORT OF MY EXPECTATIONS BUT I GUESS ULTIMATELY, IT'S WHAT YOU SAY IT S.

IT SEEMS I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT

UH...

NOTRA?! WHY WERE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?!

I...I JUST...WAS SUSPICIOUS... I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT...

HEH. SUCH GOOD TEAMWORK.

THANKS TO YOU, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A HOSTAGE NOW.

AH!

RESTRAIN HER! SHE'S NO GOOD TO US DEAD!

AAHH!!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY A HUMAN WOULD CARE ABOUT A MONSTER, BUT AS LONG AS IT WORKS, I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WHAT A BAD SITUATION.

SHE'S A FEMALE MONSTER...UNTIL NOW, I THOUGHT THAT SHE WAS ONE OF THE STUDENTS....

SPEAR, THERE'S SOMETHING I'M COMPLETELY CONFUSED ABOUT... WHO IS THIS GUY?

ONE THING I'M POSITIVE ABOUT IS THAT HE IS A DIFFERENT MAN FROM THE PRESIDENT HYUP THAT WE KNOW.

ALTHOUGH HIS FORCE DOESN'T VARY EVEN AN INCH FROM PRESIDENT HYUP'S...

DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU?

NOW WHAT?!

THERE ARE STILL MORE LITTLE BRATS LEFT?!

YOU....

THAT MAN'S NAME IS CHANG CHUN.

CHANG CHUN?! IMPOSSIBLE!! YOU MEAN THEY HAVE THE SAME NAME TOO?!

...!

THAT FORCE... COULD IT REALLY BE?

SANG, THAT BRAT! WHAT HAS SHE BEEN DOING UNTIL NOW TO SHOW UP THIS LATE? SHE'S THE VERY LAST ONE!!

NO....

SHE'S NOT THE SAME SANG AS BEFORE.

THIS SANG... SHE'S LIKE THE ONE FROM THE RESTORATION FOREST....

To be continued in PhD: Phantasy Degree Volume 9!!

In the Next Volume of...

PhD
PHANTASY DEGREE

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